



# NEWS



## News Headlines 3/30/2017

- One climber dies, another survives falls in Joshua Tree National Park
- Sheriffs, Bartsow PD, Marine Base compete in Baker-to-Vegas run

## One climber dies, another survives falls in Joshua Tree National Park

Hi-Desert Star, Leah Sanson

Posted: March 29, 2017, 5:57 pm



JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK — One climber was hurt and another died in two separate incidents in the national park Saturday, March 25.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department, Joshua Tree Search and Rescue and Morongo Basin Ambulance personnel responded to both calls.

A Redondo Beach man, 25-year-old Samuel Boldissar, died at 4:44 p.m., about an hour after he fell on the southwest face of Cyclops Rock, the Riverside County Coroner and Joshua Tree Search and Rescue volunteer team reported.

“Circumstances are still being investigated but the subject unfortunately succumbed to his injuries,” JOSAR reported on its Facebook page.

Earlier that day, the search team, San Bernardino County Fire Department and Morongo Basin Ambulance personnel were first called to the Hidden Valley area.

They found Tom Hurgis, a 69-year-old resident of Jackson, Wyoming, who had fallen approximately 25 feet while rock climbing.

Hurgis came to rest on a rock ledge and was unable to move, the Sheriff’s Department.

Rescuers determined Hurgis would need to be hoisted from the rocks and flown out, and called in a Sheriff’s Department helicopter. The responding crew members were pilot Cpl. Michael Gilley, crew chief Deputy Steve Miller, flight nurse Deputy Allen Francis, Deputy Jim Fagleson and flight nurse Wai Li.

Fire Department personnel climbed up to Hurgis and secured him to the ledge using a rescue basket.

The air crew hovered over Hurgis and Li was lowered to the rock ledge. Hurgis was secured to the hoist hook and hoisted into the helicopter, followed by Li.

Hurgis was flown to a nearby ambulance. He had non-life-threatening injuries and was transported by ground to a local hospital for treatment.

[http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article\\_ea628eca-14e3-11e7-93de-238a6f7be04f.html](http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_ea628eca-14e3-11e7-93de-238a6f7be04f.html)

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## **Sheriffs, Barstow PD, Marine Base compete in Baker-to-Vegas run**

**Desert Dispatch, Jose Quintero**

Posted: March 29, 2017, 10:48 am

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, Barstow Police Department and Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow Police Department personnel completed the annual Baker-to-Vegas run over the weekend.

Sheriff John McMahon participated in his third Baker-to-Vegas run and ran the final leg of the race for his team. Spokeswoman Jodi Miller said the Sheriff's Department has a lieutenant who has run the event for 30 years and another lieutenant who has run 26 times.

The Sheriff's Department had five total teams competing, three more than normal. Each team has 20 runners, with multiple alternates. But Miller said there are numerous people on the support crew as well.

"Support crew is a different story," Miller said. "There is a follow van. Their responsibility is to follow each runner for all 20 legs. Each van is staffed with a driver, timer, alternate runner and often medical support. In addition to the runners and van support crew, (San Bernardino) County Fire along with numerous volunteers, including medical staff support, play a big role in the event."

The course began roughly 25 miles north of Baker, on Highway 127, and traveled north to Shoshone, then veered northeast on Highway 178 across the state line and finished inside the Hilton Hotel in Las Vegas.

The 120-mile run has 20 legs, ranging from four to 10 miles each, with an elevation change of approximately 6,600 feet.

For Barstow, 10 officers from the Marine base and the Police Department each made up the team of 20 runners that completed the course over the span of two days.

According to one of the team's captains, Cpl. Jose Barrientos, the team completed the race on Sunday, after Capt. Andy Espinoza finished the final leg.

Espinoza completed his run in just under 35 minutes. This year marked Espinoza's seventh time participating in the race and second year he has run the final leg. He ran last year's 4.6-mile long leg in just over 40 minutes.

Espinoza said he trained hard to best last year's time.

"I trained five days a week, running five to seven miles three days a week and three miles the other two days," Espinoza said. "I started that in January and then I also incorporated interval training too. My brother Ruben, who works for the Ontario Police Department, came up to Barstow to train with me on the weekends. He ran for his team."

Barrientos, an 12-year BPD veteran, has been a team captain for the past five years.

Like Espinoza, McMahon completed the final run for his team. McMahon completed the 4.6 miles in just over 39 minutes.

"I believe in lifetime fitness and also believe in setting an example for others," McMahon said. "This event provides an opportunity for our department to compete with others from our state along with other states and countries. Baker to Vegas also provides an opportunity to interact with others in our profession in a casual environment with healthy competition."

<http://www.desertdispatch.com/news/20170329/sheriffs-barstow-pd-marine-base-compete-in-baker-to-vegas-run>

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